

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

19. (new) A method for treating hepatitis  
comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an  
effective amount of a compound that neutralizes the  
effect of secreted TNF alpha.

20. (new) The method according to claim 19  
wherein the hepatitis is selected from the group  
consisting of hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C,  
hepatitis D, and hepatitis E.

21. (new) The method according to claim 19  
wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of TNF  
alpha is etanercept.

22. (new) The method according to claim 19  
wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of TNF  
alpha is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

23. (new) The method according to claim 22  
wherein the humanized monoclonal antibody is infliximab.

24. (new) The method according to claim 19  
wherein the hepatitis is a viral hepatitis.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24

wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha is etanercept.

26. (new) The method according to claim 24 wherein the compound that neutralizes the effect of TNF alpha is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

27. (new) The method according to claim 26 wherein the humanized monoclonal antibody is infliximab.

28. (new) A method for treating viral hepatitis comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound that reduces viral levels in that patient.

29. (new) The method according to claim 28 wherein the compound that reduces the viral levels is a compound that neutralizes the effect of secreted TNF alpha.

30. (new) The method according to claim 28 wherein the hepatitis is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, and hepatitis E.

31. (new) The method according to claim 29 wherein the compound that reduces the viral levels is etanercept.

32. (new) The method according to claim 28 wherein the compound that reduces the viral levels in a patient is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

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33. (new) The method according to claim 32  
wherein the humanized monoclonal antibody is infliximab.

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